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**NEWS RELEASE**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**SERIAL BANK ROBBER PLEADS GUILTY**

SACRAMENTO--United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced today that JIM BRIAN SMITH, 26, of Orangevale, California, pled guilty today to two felony counts of bank robbery before United States District Judge Morrison C. England, Jr.

The case was investigated by the Sacramento Violent Crimes Task Force, which includes the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Roseville Police Department, Amador County Sheriff's Department, Grass Valley Police Department, Lincoln Police Department, and Sacramento County Sheriff's Department.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Michelle Rodriguez, who is prosecuting the case, SMITH committed five different robberies occurring in 2006 and 2007. SMITH robbed the following banks: (1) Bank of Lodi, 9454 Main St., Plymouth, CA on December 8, 2006 for \$2,600; (2) Washington Mutual Bank, 8859 Madison Ave., Sacramento, CA on December 29, 2006 for \$4,000; (3) Placer Community Credit Union, 12100 Nevada City Highway, Grass Valley, CA on January 19, 2007 for \$800; (4) Golden One Credit Union, 415 South Highway 65, Lincoln, CA on January 30, 2007 for \$3,000; and (5) U.S. Bank, 10325 Fairway Dr., Roseville, CA on February 26, 2007 for \$1,750. For his serial robberies, SMITH used demand notes and threatened to use a gun. Based on witness descriptions and a rapid law enforcement reaction, on February 26, 2007, responding law enforcement observed SMITH's getaway vehicle -- a gold colored Dodge Caravan -- in Roseville, California and executed a traffic stop and subsequent arrest. SMITH pled guilty to two counts of bank robbery (the Bank of Lodi robbery on December 8, 2006 and the U.S. Bank robbery on February 26, 2007). However, as relevant conduct, SMITH admitted commission of the three additional bank robberies. SMITH agreed to pay restitution for all five bank robberies.

SMITH is scheduled to be sentenced on Tuesday, May 22, 2007, at 8:30 a.m. before Judge England. SMITH faces a maximum of 40 years in prison for the bank robbery charges and a three year term of federal supervised release. However, the actual sentence will be determined at the discretion of the court after consideration of the Federal Sentencing Guidelines, which take into account a number of variables, and any applicable statutory sentencing factors. SMITH was remanded into custody after entry of his guilty pleas.

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